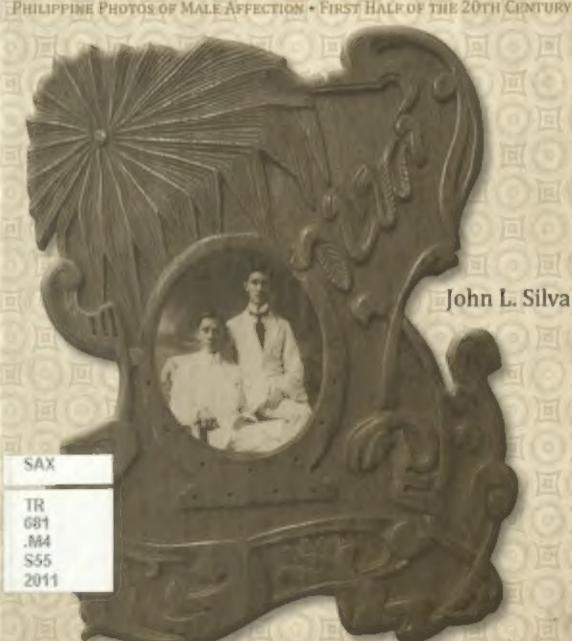
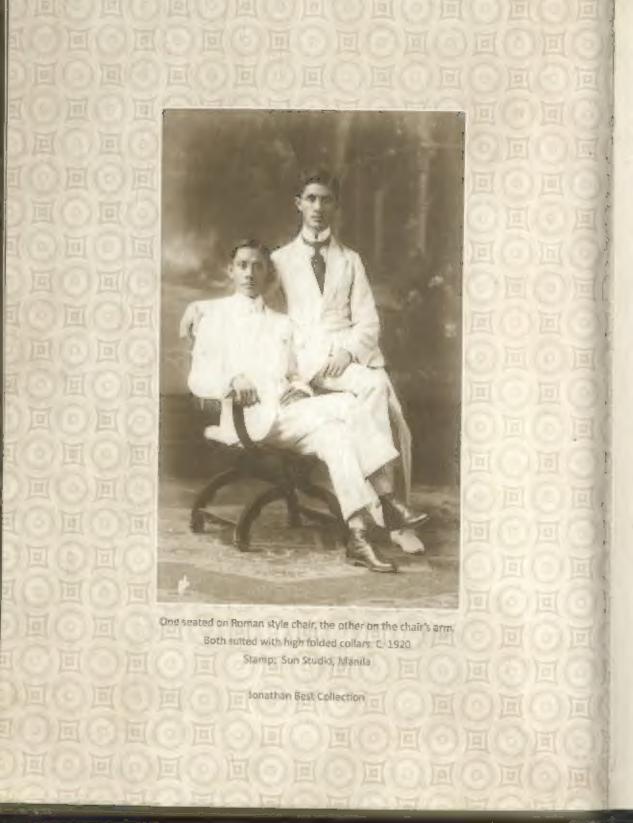
A Token of our Griendship

PHILIPPINE PHOTOS OF MALE AFFECTION . FIRST HALF OF THE 20TH CENTURY





# A Joken of our Griendship



Philippine Photos of Male Affection

FIRST HALF OF THE 20TH CENTURY

John L. Silva

#### A Token of Our Friendship

Philippine Photas of Male Affection First Half of the 20th Century by John L. Silva

Copyright @ 2011 John L Silva

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Special thanks to Teresita Ang Sy for translating the Chinese inscriptions on two of the photos. Contents



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#### NOTES ON PHOTO CAPTIONS

Unless start and on the page, the subject matter, the photographer or the photo studio are unknown.

Jonathan Best ownership is stated on loaned photos.

The rest are from the John L. Silva collection.

All \$3 hadrographs are gelatin salver prints. Most photographs are Real Photo Postcards, the standard dimensions are 5 1/2 ± 3 1/2.\*

Others are of smaller dimensions from 3 1/2 × 2,\* to 4 1/2 × 2 3/4.\*



for Jonathan







This book was born as a gift to two people.

Having known John Silva and Jonathan Best, first as photography collectors, and then later as good friends, Rachel Rillo and I gifted them with a picture book. Entitled "Dear Friends, American Photographs of Men Together, 1840 – 1918 by David Deitcher. It was a collection of photographs that recorded affection and love between men of that period.

Immediately, John said, "Oh, I have lots of photographs like these!"

Knowing that John and Jonathan own one of the largest and most extensive vintage Philippine photography collection, so was born the idea to show this narrative, of the bonds between men in our Philippines.

The photos were catalogued and listed: whether they were best of friends or brothers, brief companions or long-time lovers, solo portraits or class photos, John has assembled a collection of images that document these universal and timeless relationships. What you are now holding is 'A Token of Our Friendship, Philippine Photos of Male Affection, First Half of the 20th Century.'

The inscriptions on the reverse of these images, acting as explanations, and sometimes as code, are most revealing of the intentions of the sitter. In one favorite, a mix between ambiguous declaration of hope, and a poetic desire to preserve the moment:

To Joe, to remain unmoved by the storm of time."

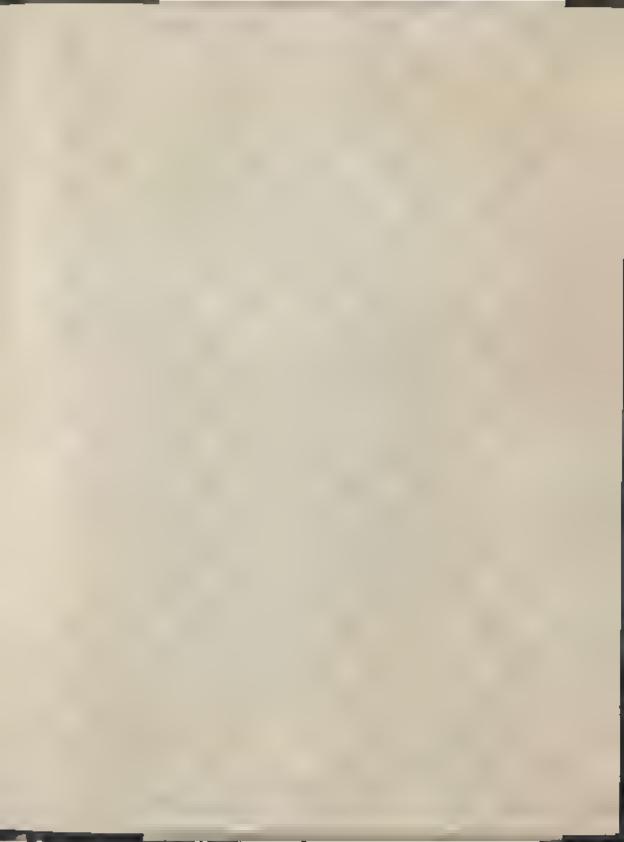
The photographs are great studies of fachion, hairstyles, and attitudes. The studio photos with the elaborate backdrops that mimic what must have been exotic places to the Pilipino circa 1920, are so telling of what was deemed extraordinary.

The photographers' ways of shooting, the sitters' carriages, the backdrops against which they are photographed, combine set design and performance, a film still if you will. Or an extrest need to be recorded as a man in his prime, with someone important to him.

Photographs that documented these affectionate portraits in the Philippines, and the collectors that scour field markets and tank shops almost a century later, keep history alive. They are cultural documentation, and more importantly, as reminders that the gestures of affection line our personal histories, genetic markers on the pages of Philippine history.

The photographs in this book are presented in the Silveriens Gallery as John Silva's third exhibition of his collection. In 2005, John presented photographs of the Manda at the turn of the 20° c; in 2007, he presented his own family history, this time, he chares with us a corner of his collection, some of them owned by John, for making this simultaneously universal and personal. We are grateful to you John, for making this simple gift grow a thousand-fold.

Isa Lorenzo Silverlens Gallery Manila May 20, 2011





Introduction

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I am In and

I am I

Inscription on verso for photo (page 24 too left,

Don hester Hotel

1482 sutter Sr.

San Francisco Ca

U.S.A. Nov 15 1917

Dearest Benj

This is my Merry Xmas to you,

May

Prosperity and Happiness

So long honey.

Yours ever

J M Buenafe

Addressed to Mr Benj Mallan

Tonsuya, Marabon Rizar, Phil 4s.

Embossed: Morlyama Studio, 1797 Sutter St. 5 F

Inscriptions on the Back

Most of the real photo cards I collected had no inscriptions on the back and my appreciation of them is limited. The value of a card is enhanced (nimensely when it contains a written message A photo studios embossed logo with a name and address helps greatly, providing a clue to the photographer's

the same and the s a har not be station register a prince a foliage to one t the property of the best of the second r by par crus 12 E and the state of t ret. or property for an area and the form taken a common transcript of the court perform e the pure proper par per face and heartfelt, the degree of affection measured. in the property of the second of the respective second the transfer was not been to be to the example of a state of a state of the party of the Macription.

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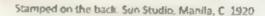
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A virgin first and with a light of a chosen of fix to harding even one to the first of the harding and the harding and the harding and the state of a virginial fix the harding and the hardin

The back of the photo card has an inscription adding to an Ismae) Mailan of Malabon Rizal, P. J. (Ph. 1), and (S). In the Palmer Method style of Nachtel (S)

Let the tender grace of our companionship nor take wings and fly away from your memory. The picture is to perpetuate that memory of our happy whool day

Reman Santas



Two nethin white summer suits into wearing a long tiel the other a bowtie are this subgether ting sealed in a settee, the tiber sealed on the armirest. One man's are a least summer to be their shack, the hand firmly in his shill derest back to be and there are leasting of friendship.

tinity much of the card ar inscription is written in an apswept style in artistic. Nock refers



Embossed Sun Studio Manna

What is to speed Babes a sar we sit on man. Pepe

Ai gust 25/28

#### (Translation

050

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Pepe

August 25/28]

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vignette	sugges	ting intimacy				
4	5.7	л ја	- 1	$\epsilon^{\prime}=i1$	41 1 1	

base for Filipino, the national language

Pahlo

Saryo tangi at mahal kong kaybigan Sayo'y boong puso kong iniantay Tuloy nagnanais no ang kapaiaran Ay samaiyo nga habang nabubuhay

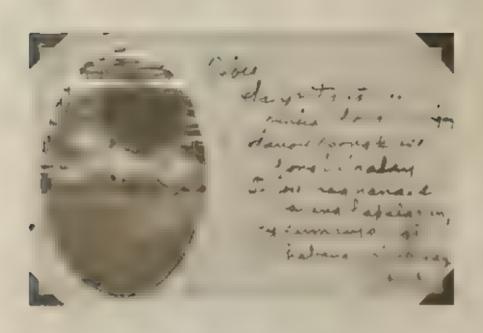
Alfred

Translation

Pablo

f am fated to you my friend and love To you I offer alf my heart I continue to wish that good fortune He with you as long as you live

Affred





Muscleman at the beach, C 1959

Solo Images

The early sign of photographs wealths gentlemen had stone perfeats taken on the every sign or anted on 1/2 × 4 inch cards rayed corte delete. They were to introduce onese to business prospects of the action. As photographs should inshed and the cost of a studie portrain became more reasonable some adviced after the base a photographs as a keepsake or source.

The monograph as a memento became the oversity and scale into the sitting, and across class and processional lines. From the national hero lose Rula, which had most solo primary, ascendingly to say, its far away pholography were sont indisection, the wages to be remembered and not long them. At the end of the 19th the beginning of the Procession, when people were separated from one another to work or study in when mosting from the province to a new life to the inty an arhange of photographs occurred.

By 4.0 bundreds of hipping men were hired to be stewards mess boys and litant cooks for the 5 Navi. The islands men were arriving in Hawa Laurenta ington Store and Alaska. It work as field hands or canners workers. By 1930 there over 2,000 Fittings working mostly in the Inited States. On their Kellds off they would go to photo studies in their sart, but have their pictures en to send to loved ones and yearning sweethcarts.

The philographs though micao is assure the viewer of their success were grain at ringes inding the low pay they actually received and the hard working a tions they were subjected to intended to headly in a law usual society with wall perking order manginaryed the Maiay features of Filippios in response along the pose even murk holds and with more assurance mimicking the cold prosper as our nessoned with three piece suits and gold watches in a vicases there were images with inscriptions of contentment having adapted to the American dream.



M R as F , t. semi three piece sult with a rounded high collar. Nov. 1917 Inscription on verso and embossment, see page 16

Solo portraits were also a form of expressing affection

1. The state of the state

Some portraits contain poses with the subject looking downward or to the side affecting an air of volnerability a subtle plea for love. Self-elfacing messages on the back using the photograph as madequate or a modest likeness are courses.

The photo portrait was ideal for the more artistic paseurs often homosexisals, with coy striles, impectable suits, legs crossed in the continental style arms drahed over chairs abands in calculated repose.

A small body of photographs exist revealing semi-nuclmen displaying fine physiques. The body beautiful, whose popularity began in the 19th century as "physical culture would later be employed as an object for sexual and proamorous attraction. In the 1950's homogrown gyms opened

object of photographic attention

A PART OF A PART



ascription front. Sincerely, Ben-

rescription on verso Feb. 4, 1930 San Francisco, Calif

Dear Curing
May your heart be a flower pot, where I
may plant the word Forget Me Not
Yours

Ben

Embossed: Morlyama Studio 1797 Sutter St., S.F. A favorite photo studio of Etipinos in California)

Jonathan Best Collection







the door givering or Real Photo Production of Young maker she to me! ( - 5



Suited young man seated on bench. Loggia backdrop
inscription on verso: 1, 31, 20
Aloidia to so maginary Sara at Luching. Ang nakolitrowon

Audressed to: Bb Smforosa Bauhsta J Sulu Sta Croz Oly



Inscribed in front Sincerely Yours Eddle Stendied decoration on the corners C 1911

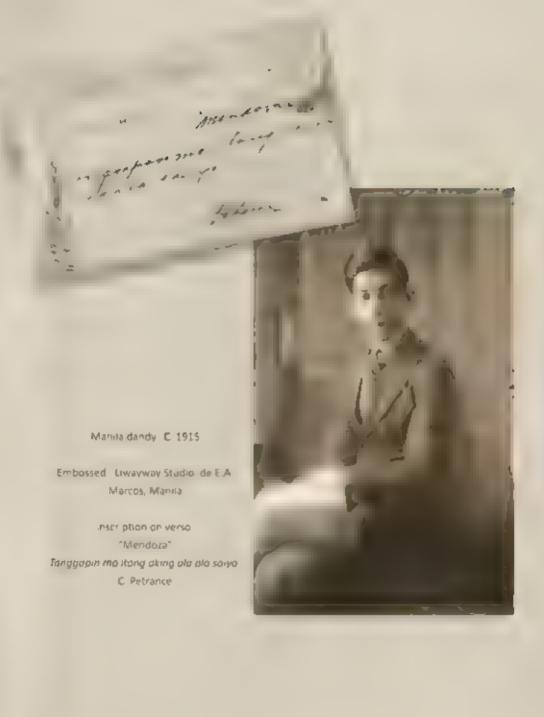


Young man in striped suit with high collan C 1920.
Embrysed "C Wilderco Ave Rizal Manifa"



Committee of the same

Project, der rest auffelder, best ausenget met gefende i





Leahing on a column, C. 1930

Inscription on verso
My humble shap
Is not worth adoring
Nor it seems to be pleasing
But the sincerety of a friend.
Will always and always remain
Merro

to st seem to be

if the seem to

Handsome man in white suit and how tie C 1915

> Embossed Amor Studio Padre Rada, Mania

reciption on verso

Maeng

an offering this poor picture of mine
to you & co. as a token of my devoted
friendship with you & as my heart's
gratitude & appreciation of
having found a friend at last who will
be my friend once & for all

Martin

Addressed to: Mr. Ismael Mallan 8. Co. Tonsuya, Maiabon, Rizal, Pt



More of the state of the same of the same



Saltor's reminder C 1919

Miscription on verso

Air Serrano

To you my dear friend receive this picture of mise as to remember to your by the passissic) year.

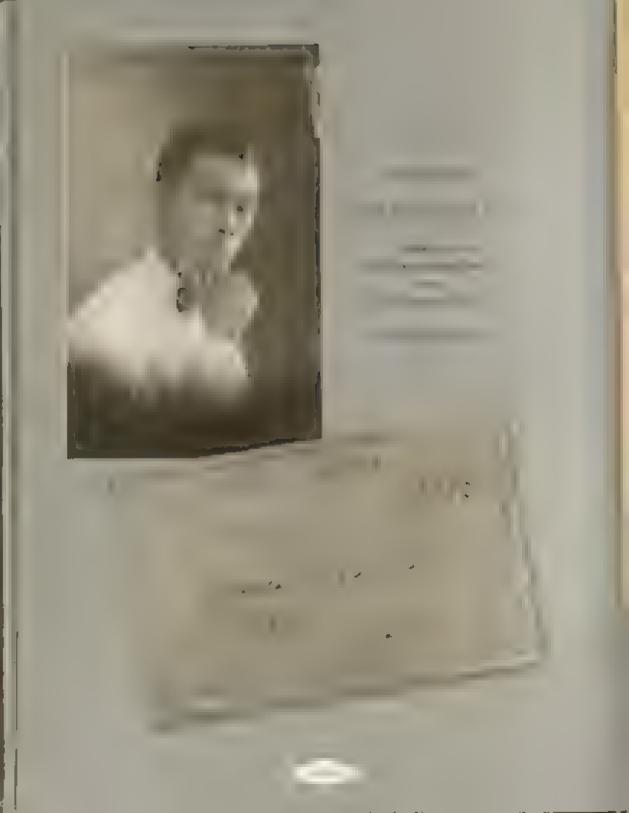




ideal Springs asserted photos, in 1965,



Embossed Sun Studio Manila



Roman Santos in a wing shirt collar and suit C 1918

inscription on verso

tender grace of our companionship
hake wings and fly away from your
h. This picture is to perpetuate that
mory of our happy school days

Roman Santos

idressed to Mr. smael Mallan Malabon, Rizali P

M lar leacher received many swith a r Bonate messages from time male leaf to the country and abroad (

pnathen Best Collection



All the lande.

The state of the property of all and the state of the



Young man in white suit and tie posed in continental fashion on an arm than  $\, C.\, 1920 \,$ 

Embossed Moonlight Studio Manda, P.

1 Lipus provers Permanuting en on the year ende kip

Purts massage assage assage as a second purpose him for sending an ugly picture. Signature in a bie.



6 8 T 78



Pensive gare and push

Embersed: Venos Studio, Manie

March 25, 1934
March 25, 1934
Min dia kay Goring
Ciniong
(Megible Alt antarn

Pagsanian, cag ina-

IA remembrance for Goring from Clinions

Alcodora)



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memorito C 192

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Zaragova as a take vot esteem re

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Suited gentleman granping scridies C 1930

Couples

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or the same and the same sand was Brong sporting or the same and the s

t go of physical affection.

or a state of the destructions pressed against such other hours of the second state of the against state of the against state of the against state of the second state

sing of real passion, we that he had a embracing the other mans back in shoulder

supplying physicerecarcia is plant a There is a deven be related a restrict the same techniques of the second of t

we have the physical production of the control of t

However, it is more to find the posers wear three-piece outs. Three-piece suits were mostly worn by Filipinos working in the Unlied States as demestics, cooks, cannot a

to families in the Philippines to impress them

A CONTRACTOR



II There are also photographs of men in Philippine Scout, Constabulary

The working and living conditions that Filipinos were subjected to living the farms to the Navy, he ped developing bonds of friends a plant affection between these men. The all or harvacks life, the difficult work, conditions the racism they failed in a foreign country created matual insociations and personal camatades, among them.

her merante herric acts of up their lives for their fellow soluter his been seconded such acts districtive is never for country. Faday with decide historical estimatation, many of heroic sacrifices rendered by it soldiers were made for the love of each other as well.



Two men bathing together beneath Puente de Fapana (Bridge of Spain)
Pasig River, Manifa. C. 1930





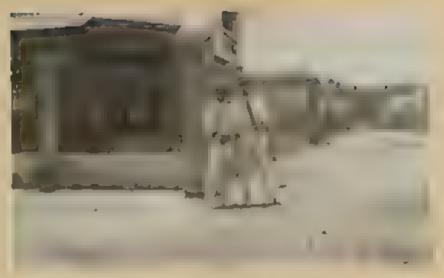
Fan and undertified movie actor, posed in front of billboard featuring matrice actor firen Reyes, \$4, C, 1948



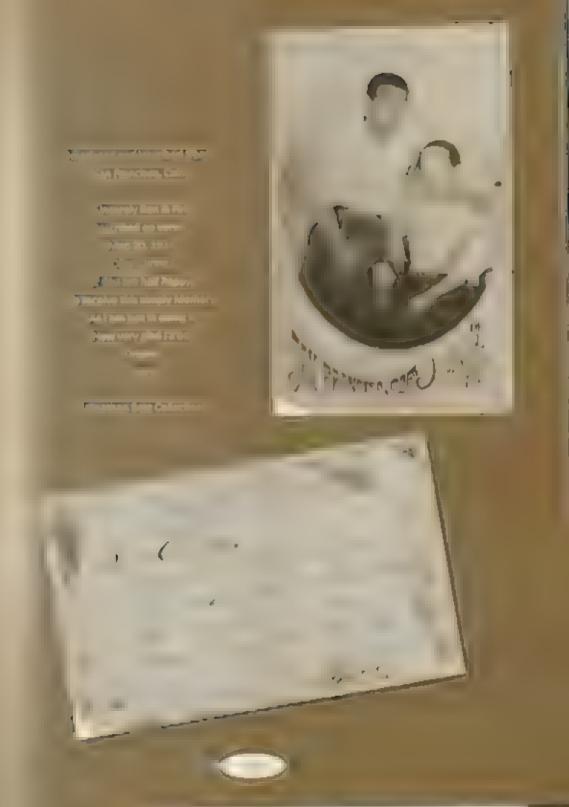
American and Filipino soidier

Probably Clark Air Base Angeles, Pampanga, C. 1948





Two gent erren with one and a river wild if it and blind





Two lose friends. One with the other with bowthy C 1915 himborised. The John Study. Es. Bull 14

To All Esquerra

matrian per l'intertent



Technological species of the A.



Ascription on verso
From Qing Yan Jia Qu
(Ateratly means give—eyed, a nick name)

Fo Wen 80 addressed religently year volungent on a

Jonathan Best Collection

九門先生きな



- / seed on Roman style chair and student. C. 1917



for the tenents to



Embes ædi. Son Studio. 775 Juan Euna, Tendo-

insi iption on verso. Monife, langary 21, 1917. To my dear aunt Salud. Pepe.

Minathan Best Codection



Close pals

Emboassed Sun Studio Manifa

February of 1925

Fo Mr & Mrs India

Forece veith's group of ours as a sign
of triendship

Embosoid: Sun Studio Manila

-





+ r

and as ere as the same and as a series of the same as

vo hatted friends C 19.4

inscription on verso.

I to Choleng as a sign of our true everlusting friendship.

Embossing (legible



Jadicated to Choleng as a signe of

Two brothers pose. C. 1923

inscription on verso.

Hearthly dedicated to you fende as a recollection of elemal Friendship.

a M La F

2 Eugenio De Fantar

And insection
Mr. Pedro Venezuota
No. 730 Calle T. Alonso
Stal Craix Morros





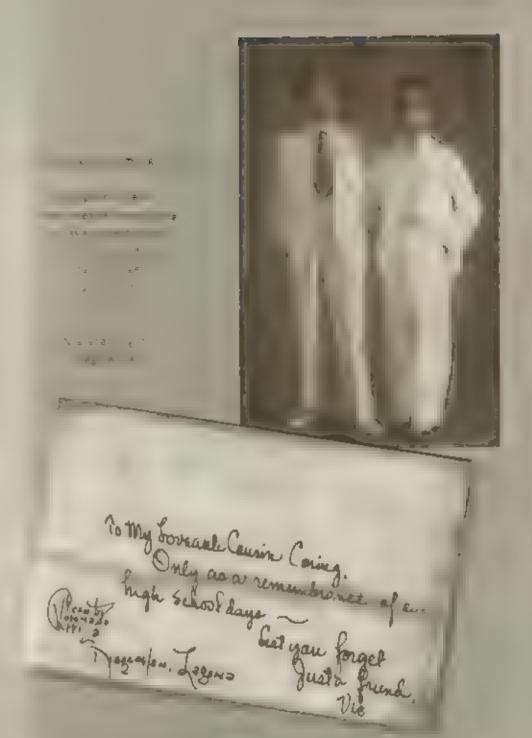


Saltors who we been around

Inscription on verso
September 25, 1914
Mr F vill andeva
Dear friend
Compliment to dear friend

& Ordonez

Addressed to
Mili Filinianueva
15.5 South Dasota
Breroerten Washington





Leaning heads for best friends C. 1921



Two filmids, same white suits, same ties, and rounded shirt collars.

050 06 1 00 00 VETSO

Alo-alo to sa akin mga pinson.

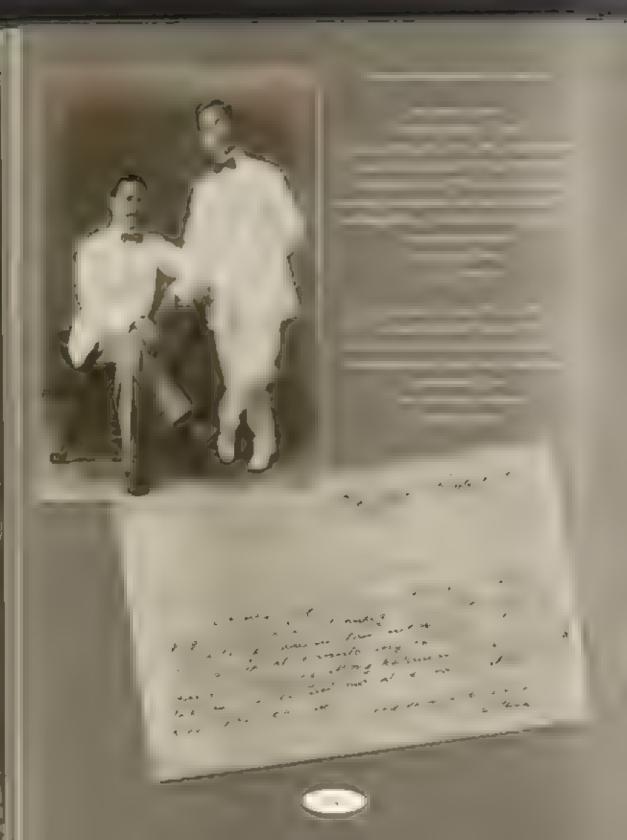
Juan

At 79 17

A memento for my cousies

Addressed to Mir and Mirs Juno Esquiro

Embossed Sun Studio Manka







An older gentleman with his word who sits continental fashion on a Roman design chan-

An Manager Study

May Clura

An Manager Study

Mauro of Frug
Nat 25, 125

To Clara. A temembrance to you noming. Magro and Trago



Na Ciara lua marrine starys
Than of Trags
Jam 78, 976



Beling,

Franchip plans

I windship plans

I would this prehow

I consider it pres

for there is a didden

ynshot in it.

ynshot in it.

ynshot yn prinst pier

Thony y pr

Tien talk with a threat of 1986.

THE PERSON NAMED IN

Bert Bill



Province gen in hattie attie ( 1911)



light friends in the morning. L. 1922



raine in nagyelamine a kilon weste in box

n inplant or end.



Front atipoets: Hollywood Studio

PSCFS fron on versa

My frend fuko



Inscription on verso legible message due to glue backing Signature: Pilamero



Kynnikan Best Collection

discussion white soits with hes-

to at Labour du Au Po

Mirch 16, 1934
fing Sixto
fo brother Sixto and family this
for the is healthy and sincefully

One of the uniper-

d. Dreamtand Studio Manife.



to be to the same of the same of the second of the second of the second second







Well dressed in bow ties and white suits, C. 1922

Inscription on verso. "Los que estan retratados Embossed: Idea de Dizon Mania



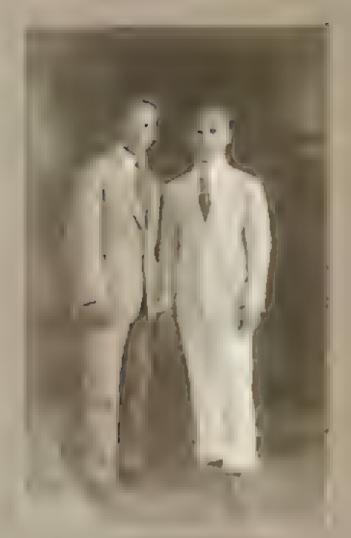






Teacher and student in continental pose

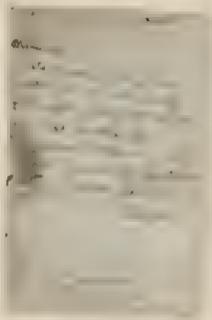
Inscription on verso: Feb. 18, 1923 Dadong Embossed: Celia Studio



toung men furrively holding hands, C 1920.

Embissed Foto Filipinas, Ave Riza, 827

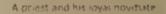




## A parting photograph?

Inscription on verso 12/24, 31

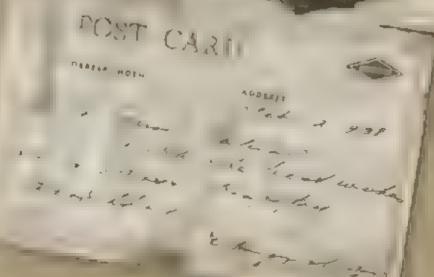
Stamp on back Nolva Studio, Cabanatuan



no phonony 21 1938
To Miss calcag
With the best wiches for a
Most Happy Birthilay
Signature Begible

timbossed. Cent a Art Stocke. Cabonist Jan N. L.

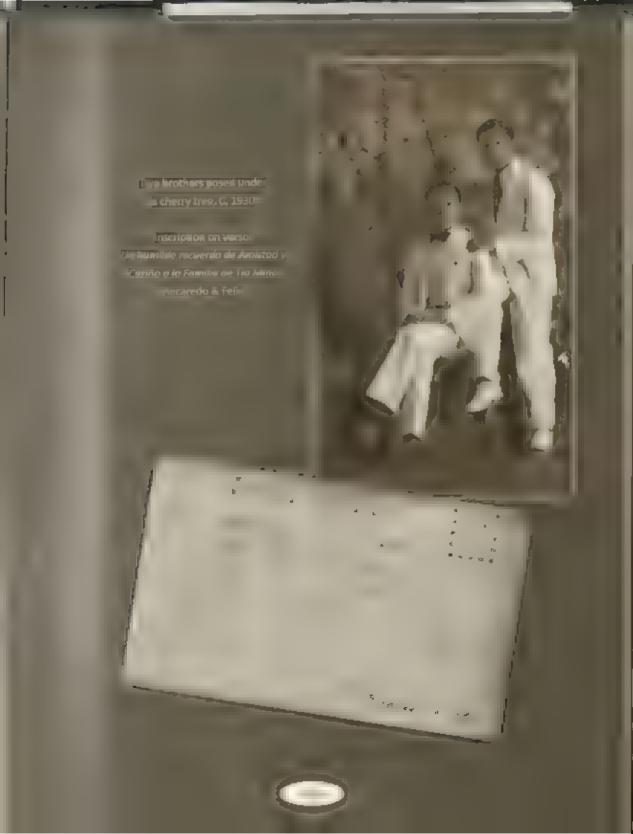




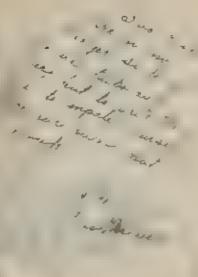


Two Filipino sanor friends from the J.S.S. Saratoga C 1928

nscription on yersa Aquin alala sa aquin paisana dita sa Shunghai Emillo L. G. nete







Two Musketeers, C 1921

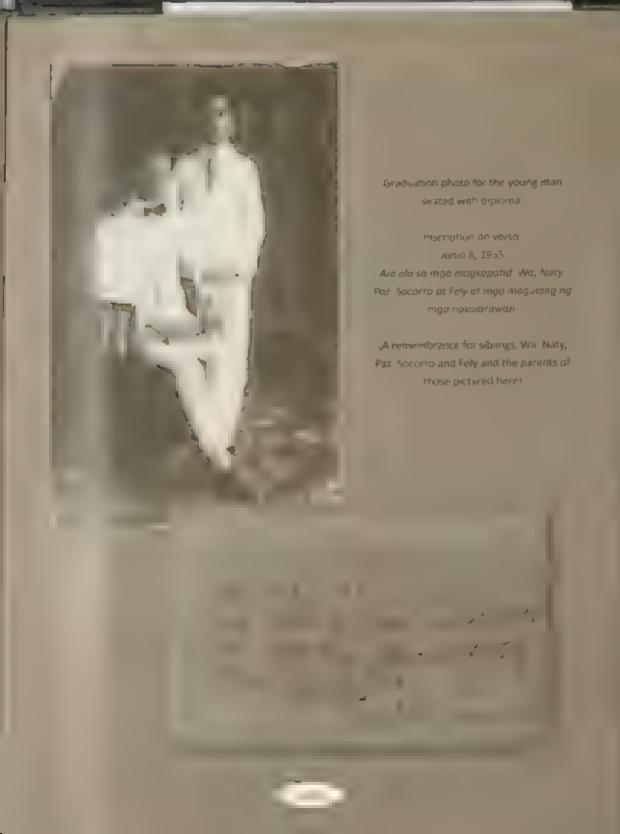
inscription on verso

7 AC Music Service of the Color of the Color

are to impale ourselves on our own pot hook.

"" "wo Musketeers

Note pres Mulkereng train in walls, who how







Buddies direct gaze at the camera C 1921

Embossed, Thangulo Studio Manila





Cay serier Tanda ng pagmamahal ca saryo Mattas Sept. 16, 1918 Ta Jeneri, a memento at my love fot you. Mattas,

Embossed Foto Filipinas Ave Rizal, 827



Allerant of the state of the st

Two navy buddles

## Inscribed front ILS.S. Idaho, San Pedro, Car.

## Dearest Sis Con

am now in every way ready to high trong plane in initial world. Some finitial is my way up to the log thou rough obstaces, and we alman in up focal in the But lest let ever the expents all my rapties in the all would lumble into the initial abad scene of facure would spread before my aight and yours. And the are given in had from other peripe but my own dear Siste all not you in your dear that Mother while im having a liqual thigh for a place of the all hind y never long.

Nov 12,28/19

Two mates in a floral scene C 1919

nscription on verso

Remember me when far away

Remember me when thou art sad

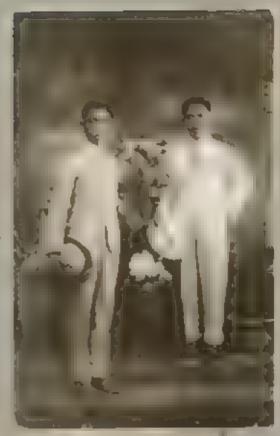
And in your heart

Jumy (sit ) these words "Forget Me Not"

Forget the gift but not the given

Tranquiling Bautro

Addressed to Mr V.R Guderrez Lobo Batangas



Remarks one when for any of the grace of the gapt with the gapt heart the grace of the grace of the grace of any the grace of the grace of the grace of any the grace of the grace of



The end of a friend-hip? C

nscription on yeas.

To name erased
As a remembrance
From, J.N. Cobangbane.

Pangasinan



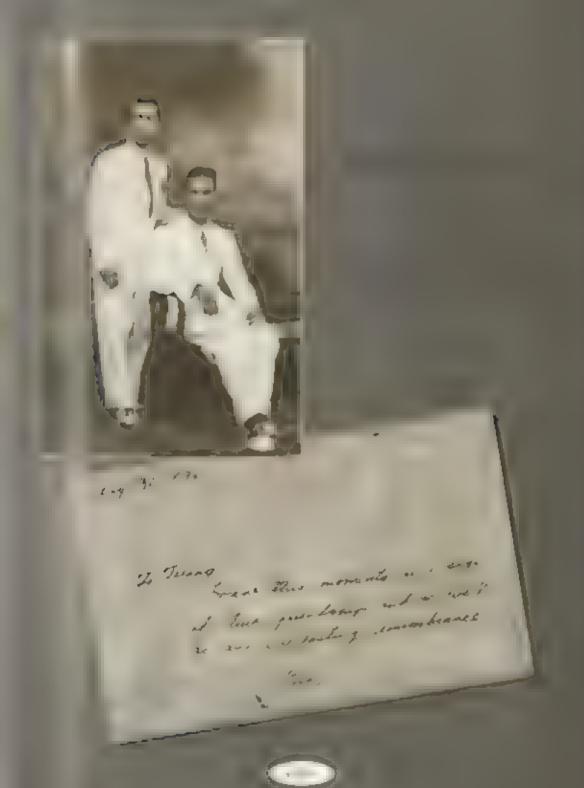
47 S PRARAME DO DE and I have the all



The foliping friendship photo, from native garb to provincial backdrop

inscription on virtio. Faded line. And Aking all alla Faded line.

( "Afy remembrance".)





Affect onage seming

A sweet inmarch onco trans 6 Print y

Addressed N

Employed Mudue



Tower omembrance



The thirty game in solution growther ( 192

mpro Life adaption.
Meyrola Mryoya an Busin

4 + 12





Spring begin in the night them indicate igneed in

Group Poses

The contract many direct in the case of th

the sent property serves the four and the proceedings of the systematical transfer of the system of

the second of the property of the second of

remains their beads together.

In care or has group photos, thip nos at amily gatherings a sociation of ngs con, my outings spirits events and the things as congregations diners.

f crease group at egy-to-the beach to picture spects to waterfairs and reversedes operation. Bugging Antiper and Tangantan were a popular there as they are today. These photographs show the happiest of faces.

Might mappint igraphs intraternal associations, cabs and various governing is services, departments or businesses were also sign. And inhumber our living in the military process has comen a sud-scient messpecially and which is a service about our living in wastes show density and necks empirate a acceptance as each and egy presses against the coming thighs Perhans such affection was district because he broad military and participally apparent of a family or group as used to the neglection for each other.



Delivery men reparhdores for the newspaper Dialloide Marilla (1,880)

## Attributed to Francisco Van Camp

The Spanish newspaper lasted close to 50 years and closed in 1848. Many of its works including these men were members of the secret revolutionary organization Katiput at which later led the revolt against Spain).



Hats and handshakes, C. 1935



Johathan Best Collection







He summed the siches

TO CHEN ZOA

任 陸 到 玄

世代教建





The suitor seated on a Roman design chair with his fellow mates

nscription on verso

When you are under the shady darkness

of sulitude (sic) and full of sentiments

and curious solrows.

Raise these (sto) picture dear friend and will denotes, to show the way to happiness and not for (the) grave

> Your friend. E Zamora

Addressed to

Mas Agripina Pineda

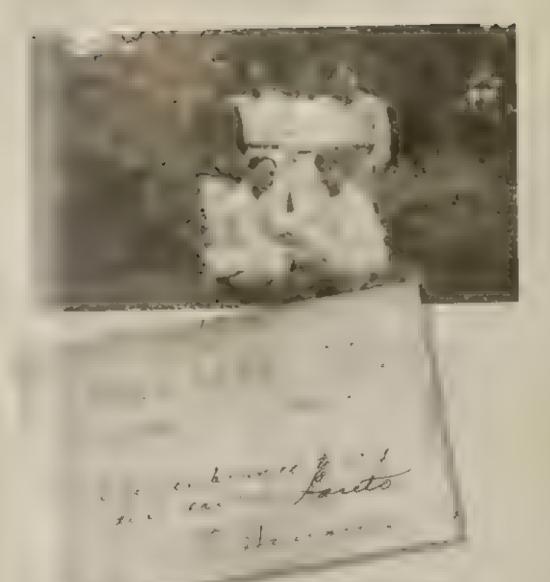
Bayambang Pangasinan, Pa

Maria Contractor of the second

to make a se for the land to



Friends visiting the province C 132.



A reuman of close friends

inscription on verso

1. 42.

A remembrance to my dear coush Loreto

P Maniquiz

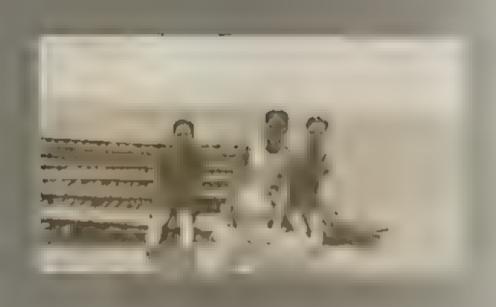


Two hunters and their guide at rest C 1920



Love's enuberance in the midst of formality. C. 1921

At a Anic 1 only we find a good red must duid y
with men than with women 1





Tilipino orthestra, Buenos Aires, Argentina, 1926







To Badong from Geronimo, C. 19.

Palitica (\*)

A taken of our fillue friendship

Your friend

Geronimo Di Sackar

Sear Fadong:

Recieve this unwonthy pertine
as a token of five friendship

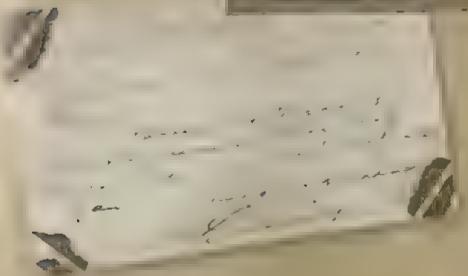
Ty forends

Teronome forends

it idents in camasa de Onno, C. 1912.

nscription on versa Maming. Sungujuh ma itong am ng marahtang Wawan, tando nag di pogumot o, hi









Backdrop has the outline of the Pasig River lighthouse)



A Philippine Seput and his companions

nscription on verso: Airamembrance for someone with goodness in his tie: 10-25-18 Addressed to: Mr. and Mrs. El Esquiver Jaen, N.E.

Embossed 1 M Bayot Photo Studio Manua, P.

11/2 10 1911 Forement hother away Balong here in the city of manula Brother Bodon





No. 4 No. Fact.

The state of the s

Embosseu im Lawarda (alha ugi samar P

may har Be use him





Three distinct poses, C. 1934



Pases of sincenty loggia backdrap, £, 1910

Inscription on verso

Turning, Boon puso kong ipinaguatain
sa iyo intong aming iatawan nami

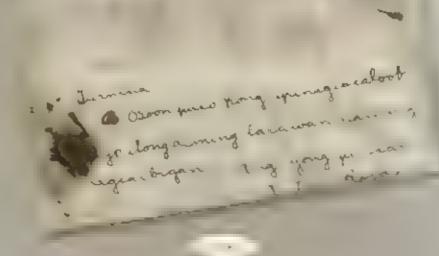
Ang iyong pinsan Antonio Roids

Turning. My whole heart for yours

this picture with my friend:

Your season

Antonic Rojas





Three bespectacled and armed forest rangers

mount front Land Classification Party, 1925-1928 of the Bureau of Forestry at Western Pangasinan Prov

inscription on verso Querido hermano y hermana. Recuerdo de su hermano. Ceto 12 5-25 Embossed: ista Studio, Pang.



Dapper gentiemen in relaxed pose IC 1932 (The fies may have been borrowed since one is a bit too short





imprint on front.

We can't say anything but we stell such remembered ours stays in this construction leads. Benjamin Pedro Photo E. Archia



Shipmates gone camping

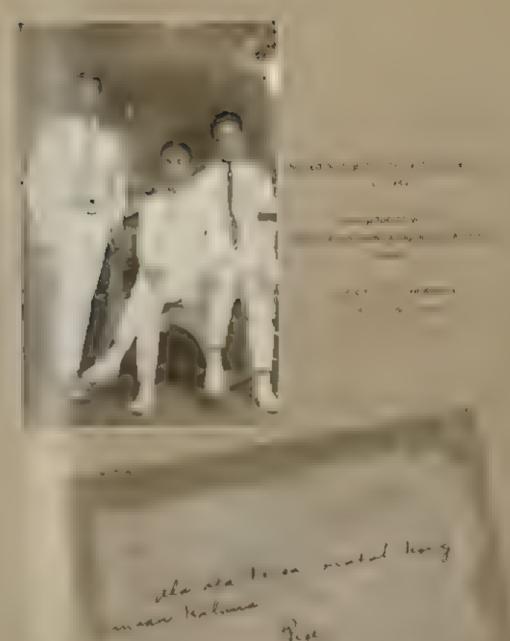
Imprint on Front

Free March 300 A 200 A 200 South William William

May 28th to June 1st, 1940 Rizal Studio, Antipolo, Rizal

Jorrathan Best Collection





Bige



Jonathan Best Collection





Hunks on parade, Matabungkay Beach, Batangas, C. 1959



University friends, policitiwith (http://encedia.org.whack 244

nscription on verso

Epilogue

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The new penness of the content and the gents of any certification of the more content of the content of the more content of the content of th

Carrous and service of the cauled an primer at the first portraiture either in or outside the studio.)

voultate a gittle dislemment is gas, an in the norm solve in a cap sport the ment of the capital and dismissed, but not forgotten



Cryptic and intense. Inscription on Front. Para "Palaspas" is errorco de suaves es duices parrafos en prueba de admiración. For your hands su de busy with you sex. I will taker, proof of my admiration (Fernando Flores, Dec. 2, 1912). Simbossed. Ti Kapulong Fotografo. Machi all this suas tripinas.

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Handholding to the future. Circa 1914.



JOHN L. SILVA was born in floilo, Philippines and is a collector of vintage photographs and writes on the subject for various publications. He also writes on cultural matters, heritage and history, much of it in relation to photographs. Mr. Silva has curated photography shows in the United States and the Philippines.

Mr. Silva was Senior Consultant to the National Museum and

Mr. Silva was Senior Consultant to the National Museum and was most recently appointed by Philippine President Benigno Aquino Jr. as a Commissioner to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

Mr. Silva has authored a biography of Mr. Aurelio Montinola Sr. and an arts appreciation book for public school teachers.

He currently resides in Metro Manila with his partner of 36 years, Jonathan Best.

